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Message Text

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51
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 FPC-01 NEA-10

DRC-01 /140 W
---------- 123814
O R 211440Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6760
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
CINCLANT FOR POLAD
COMCARIBSEAFRON

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0311

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GJ, PINS, PINT
SUBJ: GRENADA ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS END STRIKE

REF: BTN 301

1. MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (TAWU), WHO STAFF GRENADA'S ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, VOTED FEB 20 TO END THEIR FOUR-WEEK PROTEST STRIKE AGAINST GOVT OF PM ERIC GAIRY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WORKERS, FACED WITH SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FOR PROLONGED WORK STOPPAGE, VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RETURN TO WORK IMMEDIATELY. MEMBERS OF SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS' UNION (SWWU), WHOSE STRIKE HAS CLOSED PORT SINCE JAN 1, HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT THEY INTEND TO RETURN TO WORK.
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2. ACCORDING TO BARBADIAN ATTORNEY WITH CLOSE CONTACTS AMONG OPPOSITION GROUPS IN GRENADA, GRENADA POLICE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED 19 NJM MEMBERS ON FEB 20 ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES. AS YET NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES.

3. DURING RADIO INTERVIEW IN BARBADOS, MAURICE BISHOP, COORDINATING SECRETARY OF NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT, CRITICIZED CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR SENDING MONEY AND MATERIAL AID TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT FAILING TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD. BISHOP SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE INITIATIVE RATHER THAN HOPING FOR BRITAIN, CANADA OR THE U.S. TO INTERVENE.

4. COMMENT: DECISION BY TAWU, WHILE SIGNIFICANT, WILL MAKE LITTLE PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE IN GRENADA UNLESS WATERFRONT WORKERS SIMILARLY DECIDE TO END THEIR STRIKE AND TO WITHDRAW THEIR REQUESTS TO UNIONS IN BARBADOS, TRINIDAD AND CURACUO FOR BOYCOTT OF GRENADA-BOUND GOODS. ACCORDING TO LAST ESTIMATE GIVEN TO POLOFF BY MANAGER OF ELECTRICITY PLANT IN GRENADA TWO WEEKS AGO, CURRENT STOCK OF DIESEL SUFFICIENT TO RUN POWER PLANT FOR TEN DAYS ONLY. GOG HAS BROUGHT IN SMALL SUPPLIES OF FUEL BY SCHOONER, BUT THESE NOT ADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS OF ELECTRICITY AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES.
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, GJ, TAWU, SWWU, (BISHOP, MAURICE)
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